## Kentucky County Attorneys Association



## Bill Patrick Executive Director

November 30, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: DA 12-1863, IB Docket No. 12-340; RM-11683

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As Executive Director of the Kentucky County Attorneys' Association, and the former County Judge Executive of Powell County, Kentucky, a rural Appalachian county, I have written in the past to strongly urge the FCC to do everything it can do under its operating rules to help LightSquared implement its revolutionary 4G satellite based cell phone and broadband network. I now write again to urge the FCC to grant LightSquared's pending License Modification Application.

The mobility that electronic technology has brought to us all has largely been denied to rural residents, who have so often been denied broadband internet service, including 3G service. LightSquared's proposal would help put rural America on the same playing field as everyone else by providing the same high speed 4G service to rural residents as urban residents enjoy.

There is also a public safety component. I firmly agree with recent comments made by Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel about the need for greater network reliability following weather events like superstorm Sandy. That's one of the reasons I'm pleased to write to you and encourage you to approve LightSquared's application. In Kentucky, we typically don't have hurricanes, but we do suffer, virtually every winter, from crippling ice storms, and this past spring the eastern mountain region of Kentucky was badly hit by tornadoes. During this period of need, LightSquared provided satellite telephone equipment to first responders in the affected areas. Without these phones, the first responders could not communicate with each other, because of the poor cell service available in the mountains.

In rural America, wireless communications is an economic issue as well. Congress and the Administration correctly reasoned that providing \$7.2 billion in Broadband Stimulus grants would expand broadband access and ultimately "increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits," in communities across America.

The LightSquared network would provide many of these same benefits – except that it would not cost the American people a single taxpayer dime.

As someone who understands the impact of technology on rural America, I urge the FCC to grant LightSquared's pending license modification application.

Very truly yours,

Bill W. Patrick

Executive Director,

Kentucky County Attorneys' Association